

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, and 5-14 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended hereby. Claim 4 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 is in independent form. Entry of this Amendment and favorable reconsideration is requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1 and 3-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,813,147 ("Jeong") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,969,647 ("Mical").

Independent Claim 1 has been amended, in part, to incorporate the limitations of Claim 4, now cancelled.

The Office Action in page 3 alleges that Jeong teaches "an optical disk drive unit which has a lid opening backward and on which a detachable optical disk is loaded, wherein a planar region is provided at the substantially center of the rear face of the casing, and at least a part of the planar region constitutes the lid of the optical disk drive unit," as recited in amended independent Claim 1 (emphasis added). However, it is respectfully submitted that Jeong does not teach or suggest any lid opening backward and provided on the rear face of a casing. Jeong at best teaches a disk cover 130 provided on a front face of a base unit 100 and opening forward toward a display unit 200 in a space between the base unit 100 and the display unit 200.

Further, the portable disk player of Jeong appears to be incompatible with the shape of the casing of Mical. In Jeong, the display unit 200 and the base unit 100 are closely fitted side by side in a folded state (figure 2). Therefore, the front face of the base unit 100 must be a flat surface to be fitted with a flat display surface of the display unit 200, otherwise, if the front face of the base unit 100 has a curved surface, the combination would be inoperable and awkward.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to apply the curved surface of Mical to the base unit 100 of Jeong.

Furthermore, the shape of the casing of Mical comprises a curved shape such that a width of the cross section becomes thicker on both ends than on the center of the casing (see Fig. 1), and therefore Mical fails to teach or suggest “a horizontally longitudinal cross section of the casing substantially perpendicular to the rear face comprises the curved shapes having gentle curves slanted from the center of the casing to the left and right hands of the user such that a width of the cross section gradually becomes narrower at both a display unit face and a rear face,” as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Moreover, according to the embodiment of Claim 1, when the user holds the casing so that the fingers of the user gripping the casing are placed along the curved shape, both ends of the casing are covered in right and left palms of the user, respectively. Therefore, by reducing the thickness of both ends of the casing, the casing fits the palms of the user and becomes easier to grasp. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not end up with the presently claimed invention by combining Jeong and Mical.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over Jeong in view of Mical, alone or in any possible combination, if any.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Entry of this Amendment and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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